

For about 10 years I've been a volunteer at the Northampton Toy Exchange, a December event where people can drop off used or new toys, games and other holiday gifts and other people can collect what they want from the 1000s of items that are donated.

It's a heart warming event that provides gifts for families that might not have the means to buy gifts for their children.

Formerly run by the Northampton Re-Use Committee, this year's event will be sponsored by the Northampton chapter of the Kiwanis Club and run by the Northampton High School Key Club and Northampton High School Environmental Club. The event is called Kids Recycle Toys for Kids.

The event will be held in a new location, at Northampton High School in the cafeteria. The event is entirely free. Drop off of items is free. Collecting items is free.

Items can be donated on Friday, December 3rd from 4:30 to 8pm.

People interested in taking items from the event should attend on Saturday, December 4th from Noon to 3pm.

All people donating items on Friday, December 3rd will be given a ticket to enable them to enter the cafeteria at 11am on Saturday, an hour earlier than the general public, if they want to take items.

Items sought for the Toy Exchange include Children's Books, Games and Puzzles in their original boxes (all pieces MUST be included), Musical Instruments, Baby and Toddler items, Dolls and Action Figures, Stuffed animals, Costumes, Cars, Trucks, Trains, and Planes, Model and Arts + Crafts Building Kits, plus Electronic Toys, Video Games and DVDs.

All dropped-off items should be sorted, clean, in good repair, and ready to enjoy a new life.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to bid in a silent auction on a selected group of higher end items. The proceeds will go toward the charitable activities of both the Key Club and Environmental Club.

Rescuing Teddy Bears and other still perfectly usable Toys from going to the landfill is part of the mission of the Toy Exchange.

For further information or to volunteer to work at the event, contact me.

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